



GB Connected :

MOVING GB ONLINE AND INTO THE HOME

**A RESOURCE
FOR LEADERS
– PART I**





Moving GB online and into the home

Due to the current global pandemic, the majority of GB groups across the world can no longer meet face to face. This resource has been created to help you stay connected with your GB members during this difficult time. Our challenge is to be physically distant (to stop the spread of the virus) but to remain socially connected to our members who need our help and support during this difficult time. The International President's Committee hopes that this resource will help leaders maintain positive relationships with GB members.

It has been amazing to see the creativity and innovation amongst our leaders and members as we move GB online and into the home. We've gathered some fantastic ideas here; some may not be applicable to your GB context but we hope that you will discover some helpful ideas.

Please remember to ensure that you comply with any government regulations on social distance.

God bless - Keep safe and well.



Moving GB Online

With the internet, it has become easier to stay connected. Some GB groups are moving GB online to stay connected. **Here are some helpful tools:**



Zoom: this is an app or a website which provides video conferencing and many GB leaders are using it to hold virtual sessions. This is one of the best apps, used frequently by youth workers and professionals across the world. There is a free version which is best used from a computer. On the free version, you can only chat for 40 minutes, but you can restart the chat straight away:
www.zoom.us



Facebook Groups: depending on your culture, Facebook is often used less by young people but can still be a positive way to share content, especially if you let young people know what you will be doing. Some GB groups have created private pages for members and upload weekly challenges to stay connected:
www.facebook.com



Instagram: Instagram is one of the apps most used by young people. You can share content through posts, stories and IGTV. Posts are best for information, sharing resources and reminding them about things you've done in your GB group previously. Stories are good for on the go, short videos: www.instagram.com

Staying Safe Online

Child protection and safeguarding rules are different around the world but it is important that we keep young people safe online.

Please follow our top tips below:

- Check your own GB country's guidelines or your own church's guidelines for communicating with members online e.g. making sure there are always two GB leaders on a video conference/call.
- Keep social media groups private for members, leaders and parents.
- Consider age restrictions for social media apps (you have to be 13 years old to be on Facebook and Instagram).
- Ensure that no communication takes place privately, and that two approved workers/leaders are always involved with any messaging correspondence with a young person. Parental permission should always be sought.
- If further clarification is needed, this resource provides a helpful framework to create a safe places for young people online: <https://youthscape.ams3.cdn.digitaloceanspaces.com/documents/Guidanc-for-online-youth-work.pdf>.



What kind of things can I post on a GB social media group?

- Encouraging and hope-filled **Bible verses**.
- **Specific prayer requests** - GB Malaysia have created a 28 days of prayer resource and are uploading a different prayer request each day. You could share from day one with your members. You can pray along on The Girls' Brigade Malaysia official facebook page.



- Some of your group's favourite **worship songs** – you can find links on YouTube.
- **Funny questions** – for example, get two of your leaders to take a photo of their breakfast. Invite girls to vote on a poll about who's breakfast is who's! This helps to create a sense of fun and community.
- **Weekly challenges** – see next section...



Weekly challenges online and at home

It has been fantastic to see the creativity and ingenuity of GB groups around the world as they set weekly challenges for GB members either by posting online or contacting parents. There could be a prize for the weekly winners.

Here's some of the best ideas:

- Record an online craft session, post it and invite members to send photos of their completed craft.
- GB Ireland has held weekly GB poem writing and dancing competitions.
- Can't have your annual parent's event or display? You could do it virtually! Ask members to record a song, dance, prayer, spoken work piece or create a craft and get parents to send videos and photos via email or social media. If you have parental permission, you could upload them to your private social media group for all members to enjoy and celebrate each other's talents!
- GB Scotland have created an Easter competition for members.
- GB New South Wales in Australia challenged members to create the GB crest using household materials and to incorporate 'Girls' Brigade' in a baking item. Find out more [here](#).

If you cannot communicate with members online due to safeguarding or accessibility, this is a great time to **communicate with parents**. You could send a weekly challenge email or WhatsApp message to parents and carers (as long as you have their permission to do so). During this time when schools are also shut, they may be grateful for any resources and ideas to use.

Show Kindness

This is our GB International theme for the year. Now more than ever, we have to come together as a community and show kindness to one another. Below are some ideas of weekly activities which could help girls serve the community around them:

- **Create a bucket or jar of kindness** - Think of 30 different ways that we can be kind to one another. For example, draw a picture to make someone happy, only say nice things, open the door for each other, lay the table at mealtimes, promise to help one another. Write each item on a lolly stick or a piece of paper, place them all in the bucket/jar and pick one each day. Encourage the whole family to achieve the kindness task for the day.
- **Make and share a Stay Safe card** - Share with family and friends.
- **Make an Easter card** - Post it to someone in your community, a family member or friend to cheer them up.
- **Create a rainbow poster** - Make a poster which includes a rainbow as a symbol of hope during this difficult time. Place it in your window for others to see and be encouraged!

Stay connected

The challenge that we're facing is to maintain physical distance from each other but not to become relationally distant. Here are some ideas about how you maintain positive relationships with members:

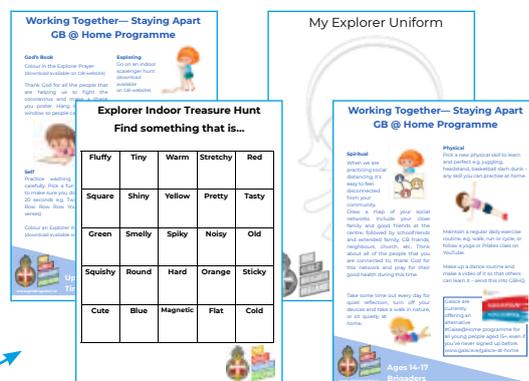
- **The power of post** - don't underestimate the power of a letter or note. It lets people know that you're thinking of them.
- **Gifts** - if you have the budget and ability perhaps post a little gift to members.
- **Craft packs** - if you have bought craft supplies for the year, you could create craft packs to send to members.



GB resources

A number of GB countries have created their own resources for their own leaders and shared them free online. Some ideas may be helpful to you:

- **Working Together but Staying Apart** - that's the theme of The Girls' Brigade Ireland's new resources for GB members to do at home! There are lots of ideas for different age groups including a really fun indoor scavenger hunt. [Download sheets here.](#)



- **GB@Home** - The Girls' Brigade England & Wales has launched its new GB@Home weekly resources for 4-8s, 7-11s, 10-14s and 13-18s. These can be used by any girl at home (including non-members) and a new programme will be released every week. You can send them direct to parents/carers or even try hosting your weekly GB meeting online using software like zoom. [Download resources free.](#) GBEW has also produced a Stay Connected sheet for GB leaders, helping them think of ways to stay connected to their GB members when groups can't physically meet. Download it [here.](#)



You could share these resources with parents via an appropriate communication method or post them for your group online.

GB International is using it's [GB Worldwide Facebook](#) page to share great ideas from the GB global family to help stay connected.

If you have any great ideas that you want to share, please send your stories and photos to home@gbworldwide.org and your national office.